IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel without prejudice claim 31 and amend claims 28, 32, 33, 42, 44, 48, 58, 59, 61 and 62 as indicated in the following list of pending claims.

Pending Claims

1-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A biopsy system, comprising:

a) an elongate cannula which has a longitudinal axis, an open distal end with a transverse dimension perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, a proximal end and an inner lumen extending to and in fluid communication with the open distal end;

b) a first tissue cutting element which is disposed on the open distal end of the cannula and which lies in a plane traversing the longitudinal axis of the cannula;

c) an elongate stylet which is slidably disposed at least in part within the inner lumen of the cannula, which is configured for axial translation between a withdrawn position and an extended position and which has a distal end having a transverse dimension perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the cannula ~~that is larger than the transverse dimension of the open distal end~~ and which has an outer diameter which is greater than diameter of the inner lumen of the open distal end of the elongate cannula; and

d) a second tissue cutting element which has an electrosurgical cutting surface, which is disposed on a distal end of the stylet distal to the first cutting element and which lies in a plane parallel with the longitudinal axis of said cannula.

29. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 28 wherein the first tissue cutting element has an electrosurgical cutting surface.

30. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 29 including a first electrical conductor which has a first end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency electrical power source and which has a second end electrically connected to the first tissue cutting element to provide high frequency electrical power thereto.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The biopsy system of claim [[31]] 28 including a second electrical conductor which has a first end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency electrical power source and which has a second end electrically connected to the second tissue cutting element to provide high frequency electrical power thereto.

33. (Currently Amended) The biopsy system of claim [[31]] 28, wherein the distal end of the stylet has a substantially hemispherical head and the electrosurgical cutting surface of the second tissue cutting element extends over the hemispherical head.

34. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 28, wherein the elongate stylet comprises a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end; and a conical

head having an insulative frustum-shaped base portion and terminating in an apex portion spaced away from said shaft by said insulative base portion, wherein the second tissue cutting element includes the apex portion.

35. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 28, including a driving unit coupled to the stylet for axially translating the stylet between the withdrawn and extended positions.

36. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 35, wherein the driving unit has a translation mechanism, comprising

a carrier connected to a proximal portion of the stylet and movably mounted on the driving unit between a first position in which the stylet is in the withdrawn position and a second position in which the stylet is in the extended position; and

a carrier drive, coupled to the carrier, for moving the carrier between the first and second positions.

37. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 36, including

a. a motor which has a drive shaft coupled to a drive screw of the carrier drive for rotation therewith; and

b. a screw-driven mechanism coupled between the drive screw and the carrier, whereby rotation of the drive screw in a first direction moves the carrier from the first position to the second position.

38. (Previously Presented) The biopsy system of claim 28, including a return electrode to provide a return electrical path for electrical current from the second tissue cutting element.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 38, wherein the return electrode is disposed on the elongate stylet.

41. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 38, wherein the return electrode is disposed on the elongate cannula.

42. (Currently Amended): A biopsy system, comprising:

a) an elongate cannula which has a longitudinal axis, an open distal end, a proximal end and an inner lumen extending to and in fluid communication with the open distal end;

b) a first cutting element which has a tissue cutting surface that lies in a plane ~~perpendicular~~ transverse to the longitudinal axis of the elongate cannula and which has a transverse dimension lying in the plane;

c) an elongate stylet which is slidably disposed in part within the inner lumen of the cannula, which is configured for axial translation between a withdrawn position and an extended position and which has a distal end configured with at least one transverse dimension perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the cannula that is larger than the transverse dimension of the first cutting element in order to receive the first cutting element; and

d) a second cutting element which is electrosurgical and which is disposed on the distal end of the stylet distal to the first cutting element and which has an elongated tissue cutting surface that lies in a plane parallel with the longitudinal axis of the cannula.

43. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 42 wherein the first cutting element has an electrosurgical cutting surface.

44. (Currently Amended) The biopsy system of claim 43 including a first electrical conductor which has a first end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency electrical power source and which has a second end electrically connected to the first tissue cutting element to provide high frequency electrical power thereto.

45. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 42 wherein the second cutting element has an electrosurgical cutting surface.

46. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 45 including a second electrical conductor which has a first end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency electrical power source and which has a second end electrically connected to the second cutting element to provide high frequency electrical power thereto.

47. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 42, wherein the distal end of the stylet has a substantially hemispherical head and the second tissue cutting element extends over the hemispherical head.

48. (Currently Amended) A biopsy system, comprising:

a) an elongate cannula having a longitudinal axis, an open distal end, a proximal end, an inner lumen extending to and in fluid communication with the open distal end and a longitudinal axis;

b) a first tissue cutting element disposed on the open distal end of the cannula lying in a plane traversing the longitudinal axis of the cannula and having a transverse dimension;

c) an elongate stylet which is slidably disposed in part within the inner lumen of the cannula, which is configured for axial translation between a withdrawn position and an extended position and which has a distal end configured to receive the first tissue cutting element; and

d) a second tissue cutting element which is disposed on a distal end of the stylet distal to the first tissue cutting element and which lies in a plane parallel with the longitudinal axis of said stylet and which has at least one transverse dimension which is larger than at least one transverse dimension of the first tissue cutting element ~~larger transverse dimensions than the first tissue cutting element.~~

49. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 48 wherein the first tissue cutting element has an electrosurgical cutting surface.

50. (Previously Presented) The biopsy system of claim 49 including a first electrical conductor which has a first end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency electrical power source and which has a second end electrically connected to the first tissue cutting element to provide high frequency electrical power thereto.

51. (Previously Presented) The biopsy system of claim 48 wherein the second tissue cutting element has an electrosurgical cutting surface.

52. (Previously Presented) The biopsy system of claim 51 including a second electrical conductor which has a first end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency electrical power source and which has a second end electrically connected to the second tissue cutting element to provide high frequency electrical power thereto.

53. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 48, wherein the distal end of the stylet has a substantially hemispherical head and the second tissue cutting element extends over the hemispherical head.

54. (Previously Presented) The biopsy system of claim 48, including a return electrode to provide a return electrical path for electrical current from the second tissue cutting element.

55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously Presented) The biopsy system of claim 54, wherein the return electrode is disposed on the elongate stylet.

57. (Previously Presented) The biopsy system of claim 54, wherein the return electrode is disposed on the elongate cannula.

58. (Currently Amended) An electrosurgical device, comprising:

a) an elongated shaft which has a proximal end and a distal end with a transverse dimension and which has an inner lumen extending within at least a part of a proximal shaft portion;

b) [[a]] an arcuate tissue cutting electrode which extends over and is secured to the distal end, which is spaced distally from the distal end and which

has a chord length greater than the transverse dimension of the distal end; ~~and~~

c) an electrical conductor which has a first end electrically connected to the tissue cutting electrode and which has a second end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency electrical power source; and

d) an elongated cutting member having a longitudinal axis and a distal cutting surface which lies in a plane traversing the longitudinal axis.

59. (Currently Amended) The electrosurgical device of claim [[28]] 58, further comprising a return electrode effective to provide a return electrical path for electrical current from the tissue cutting electrode.

60. (Previously presented) The electrosurgical device of claim 59, wherein the return electrode is contained on the elongated shaft.

61. (Currently amended) The electrosurgical device of claim 58, ~~including an~~ wherein the elongated cutting member is slidably disposed within the elongated shaft ~~having a distal cutting surface transversely disposed with respect to a longitudinal axis of the shaft~~.

62. (Currently Amended) An electrosurgical device, comprising:

a) an elongated shaft having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end and a distal end with a transverse dimension perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and an inner lumen extending at least within a proximal shaft portion;

b) [[a]] an arcuate tissue cutting electrode which is secured to the elongated shaft, which extends over the distal end of the shaft, which is spaced

distally from the distal end and which has a chord length greater than the transverse dimension of the distal end;

c) an electrical conductor which has a first end electrically connected to the tissue cutting electrode and which has a second end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency electrical power source; and

d) an elongated tissue cutting member which is ~~slidably disposed within~~ slidable within the inner lumen of the elongated shaft and which has a distal tissue cutting surface transversely disposed with respect to a longitudinal axis of the shaft.